



7-08-04

\$ RCE 2183 IFW

PTO/SB/30 (09-03)

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**Request  
for  
Continued Examination (RCE)  
Transmittal**Address to:  
Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Application Number	09/727,744
Filing Date	December 1, 2000
First Named Inventor	Lawrence R. Fontaine
Art Unit	2183
Examiner Name	Aimee J. Li
Attorney Docket Number	RA5312(1028.1132101)

**This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.**  
Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. **Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

a. ☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.i. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Rely Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_ii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_b. ☒ Enclosedi. ☐ Amendment/Replyiii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/ Declaration(s)iv. ☒ Other Preliminary Amendment**2. Miscellaneous**a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)b. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_**3. Fees**

The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to

a. ☐ Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$ \$770.00 enclosedc. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)**WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.****SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print/Type)	Brian N. Tufte	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	38,638
Signature		Date	July 7, 2004

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION****CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.10:**The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" having an Express Mail mailing label number of: EV426644335, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 7th day of July, 2004.By Lynn Thompson  
Lynn Thompson

I hereby certify that this correspondence is addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Patent Office on the date shown below.

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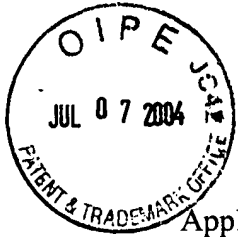
which is to file (and by the USPTO 2 minutes to complete, including any case. Any comments on the information Officer, U.S. Patent and COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS

2.

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**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Lawrence R. Fontaine et al                      Confirmation No.:

Serial No.: 09/727,744                                              Examiner: Li, Aimee J.

Filed: December 1, 2000                                              Group Art Unit: 2183

For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PROCESSING CONDITIONAL  
BRANCH INSTRUCTIONS IN A PIPELINE ARCHITECTURE

Docket No.: RA 5312 (1028.1132101)

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner For Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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By Lynn Thompson  
Lynn Thompson

Dear Sir or Madame,

This amendment is being filed in response to the final office action dated April 7, 2004, setting a three-month statutory deadline to respond of July 7, 2004. ***This Preliminary Amendment assumes that the Amendment-After-Final filed on June 16, 2004, has not been entered.*** Reconsideration, reexamination and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.